



AERIAL TREE INSPECTION- 16 SPRINGFIELD PARK, TROWBRIDGE

Contents.

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Data Collection**
- 3. Risk Management**
- 4. Limitations**
- 5. Conclusions and Recommendations**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 We are instructed by Mrs Phelps of 16 Springfield Park, Trowbridge to undertake an aerial inspection of a common walnut tree (*Juglans regia*) growing within the curtilage of that address.
- 1.2 The tree stands to the west of the garden where it overhangs footpaths to the west and north. It is also in striking distance of the road.
- 1.3 The tree has historically lost its leader and has achieved a very wide crown in relation to its height. This crown was selectively reduced in 2020 to lessen end weight. However, there are a number of cavities of undetermined depth and areas of bark death and cankers on numerous large primary branches.
- 1.4 The purpose of this inspection and report is to determine the stability and safety of large primary branches and make any recommendations for work, thus in part discharging Mrs Phelps' duty of care under the Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and 1984, and conforming with Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980.

2. Data Collection

- 2.1 The Tree Survey was carried out by Stephen Woollard, a licensed user of Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) methodology and holder of a LANTRA certificate for Professional Tree Inspection qualification, and Dan Sheppard (Cert Arb) who undertook climbing duties, on 25th February 2021. Weather conditions were generally clear during the survey. This report is produced on 17th March 2021.
- 2.2 The tree was assessed from ground level employing the Visual Tree Assessment method (Mattheck & Breloer (1994)) to determine which branches should be subject to closer inspection.
- 2.3 A nylon sounding mallet and steel probe were employed to investigate suspected areas of decay with an IML-RESI PD400 Microdrill used to confirm the presence or absence of decay, and measure it where present. Results are presented in Appendix 1.

3 Risk Management

- 3.3 This survey aims to accord with the '*Common sense risk management of trees - Guidance on trees and public safety in the UK for owners, managers and advisers - 2011*' as published by the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG). The Health and Safety Executive was consulted in the production of the above publication. It endorses the sensible, proportionate, reasonable and balanced advice to owners on managing the risk from trees set out in their guidance. A pdf of this document can be obtained by visiting: [FCMS024.pdf \(ntsgroup.org.uk\)](https://www.ntsgroup.org.uk/FCMS024.pdf)

4 Limitations

4.3 Trees are dynamic living organisms, whose health and condition can be subject to rapid change, depending on a number of external and internal factors.

4.4 All trees will drop branches during their lifetime and no tree can be considered entirely safe. Trees can be damaged during high winds or extreme weather. Fungal fruiting bodies may appear in the future and can indicate decay or the threat of decay and possible tree failure.

4.3 The conclusions of this report relate to conditions observed at the time of inspection and the results of testing with the IML-RESI PD400 Microdrill. Any significant changes to the condition of the trees, or to the use of the surrounding land will necessitate a re-assessment of the trees. Invasive procedures not highlighted, soil analysis and excavations are outside the scope of the survey, but if considered a requirement will be recommended in the report.

5 Conclusions and Recommendations

5.3 To address public safety it is advised that the works detailed below are undertaken within the suggested timeframes from the date of this report.

Drilling No.	Branch orientation/drilling location	Recommendations	Urgency
1	First primary east towards house, 2 metres out on upper side.	No action required	NA
2	First primary east towards house, 2 metres out from north side.	No action required	NA
3	Highest primary extending north, 3 metres out from west side	Reduce by up to 2 metres	3 months
4	Main primary extending south, 1.5 metres out from east side (cavity 2.5 metres out containing squirrel drey).	Reduce by up to 2 metres and thin by 10%.	3 months
5	Main primary extending south, 4 metres out from upper side (cavity 2.5 metres out containing squirrel drey).		
6	Third primary extending west, 2.5 metres out from upper side	No action required	NA

Drilling No.	Branch orientation/drilling location	Recommendations	Urgency
7	Second primary extending north over footpath, 6 metres out from upper side and to east on bulge/kink/bend	Reduce by up to 2 metres	3 months
8	Second primary extending north over footpath, 3 metres out from upper side by cavity.		
9	Second primary extending north over footpath, 1.5 metres out from upper side over damage.		
10	Lowest primary extending north, 2.5 metres out from upper side.	No action required	NA
11	Main stem, towards lowest primary to north (NNE) at 3 metres.	No action required	NA
12	Main stem, east towards suspected cavity at 3 metres.	No action required	NA

